GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:581
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
INDO-SINO BORDER TALKS
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of Indo-Sino Experts Group on the border issue was held recently;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) the number of Indo-Sino border meetings held during the last three years; and

(d) the outcome of those meetings?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)-(b): The 9th Meeting of the India-China Expert Group of Diplomats and Military Officials was held in New Delhi on June 28, 2001 The two sides exchanged views on the maps depicting the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as perceived by the two sides respectively in the Middle Sector of the India-China boundary.The maps of the LAC in the Middle Sector were exchanged in Beijing in November 2000 at the 8th Meeting of the Expert Group. Both sides re-affirmed their intention to proceed with the process of confirmation and clarification of the LAC on the basis of the 1993 agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the LAC in the India-China border areas.

(c)-(d): In the past three years, the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question has met twice in April 1999 and April 2000 and is scheduled to meet later this year. The Expert Group has met three times in November 1999, November 2000 and June 2001.

India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. We signed an agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas in 1993 and a second agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas in 1996.These two Agreements provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas. Both sides have also agreed to expedite the process of LAC clarification.